

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 14829

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US
SUBJ: MEETING WITH SADAT

REF: PARA 3, STATE 268212

1. WHEN MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF A BROADER DISCUSSION OF THE MONTHS AHEAD (BEING SEPARATELY REPORTED), I ALLUDED TO FAHMY'S UPCOMING MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN SOFIA. I NOTED THAT WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT GOE MUST PURSUE ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY, ANY MARKED RAPPROACHMENT WITH SOVIETS AT A TIME WHEN WE WANT TO BEGIN OUR EFFORTS TO RENEW THE PEACE PROCESS CAN ONLY COMPLICATTE MATTERS FOR US. I HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS WILL BEAR THIS IN MIND.
2. SADAT IMMEDIATELY GOT THE POINT. HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SUGGESTED THE DATE FOR THE MEETING AND COMMENTED TO VP MUBARAK (WHO WAS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT) THAT GOE SHOULD HAVE THOUGH OF THIS FACTOR IN CONNNECTION WITH UPCOMING MEETING. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO HAVE HELD SUCH A MEETING WITH GROMYKO AFTER THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, NOW THAT THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED, GOE CANNOT EASILY CALL IT OFF. I POINTED OUT IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE ELECTION, BUT THE MATTER OF A

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BROADER RAPPROACHEMENT AND THE DIFFICULTIES IT WOULD

POSE FOR US IN GETTING THE PEACE PROCESS STARTED AGAIN.

3. SADAT ASSURED ME, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL BE NO MARKED RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE SOVIETS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ECHOING FAHMY'S LINE, HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE OF LATE APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT THEIR POLICY TOWARD EGYPT WAS A MISTAKE AND HAVE BEEN MAKING OVERTURES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. GOE HAS NO OBJECTION TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS, BUT INTENDS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY. HE REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT WE NEED HAVE NO CONCERN ABOUT ANY MARKED RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE SOVIETS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. HE HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN THE SOVIETS, BUT BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE TO PROBE THEIR INTENTIONS.
EILTS

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